

Sirs and Madams,

As a CT resident and father of four, I am most concerned about violent crime in our State as well as the resident events in Newtown. I am horrified by these events and feel nothing but sympathy and compassion for all of those affected. These parents and families have suffered the ultimate loss, nothing any parent should ever experience.

But as I listen to the range of proposals made in the wake of this tragedy, I am disappointed in many of our law makers. I worry that these tragic events merely galvanize pre-existing views, held by those currently in office, that individual citizens should be deprived of their second amendment rights, of the right to self defense which is part of our State Constitution, the spirit of these laws eviscerated by those who know remarkably little about guns. More than this, the rush to judgment on so-called assault weapons and magazine capacity is not based on ANY EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE. In fact, the lion's share of evidence we do possess suggests that INCREASED CONTROL IS CORRELATED WITH A GREATER INCIDENCE OF VIOLENT CRIME and that DECREASED MAGAZINE CAPACITY has NO RELATIONSHIP TO DECREASES IN VIOLENT CRIME.

I challenge our leadership to have the courage to evaluate the evidence rather than score political points or pander to those who compromise our rights and ability to defend ourselves in circumstances where law enforcement, well-intentioned as they are, cannot help in a timely fashion. Don't stipulate in advance and in the absence of evidence how many cartridges I will need to protect my children; Don't limit those who provide armed security for our children to 9 or 10 or 15 bullets. Do you know how difficult it is to stop someone bent on causing one fatal harm? Can you be sure that one will be able to stop that individual with a reduced magazine capacity? In all honesty, I don't know the answer to this question, but I read in the news that the police often fire many shots to do their job—and they are trained professionals! Please consider the complexity of these matters before fashioning legislation that is unresponsive to the complexity of the problem and punishes law abiding residents of this great state.

Thank you,

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